



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 0000054017	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2003/011624	International filing date (day/month/year) 21 October 2003 (21.10.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 29 October 2002 (29.10.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B22F 3/22		
Applicant BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 23 April 2004 (23.04.2004)	Date of completion of this report 12 January 2005 (12.01.2005)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Faxsimile No.	Telephone No.

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International application No.

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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

the international application as originally filed
 the description:

pages _____ 1-9 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19)
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____ 1-5 _____, filed with the letter of 28 August 2004 (28.08.2004)

the drawings:

pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

contained in the international application in written form.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/fig. _____

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	YES
	Claims	1-3, 5 NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	YES
	Claims	4 NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-5 YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations

The following documents are cited:

D1: KARATAS C., SERITAS S.: "Rheological Properties of MIM Feedstocks Produced from Gas and Water-Atomized 316L Stainless Steel Powders" ADVANCES IN POWDER METALLURGY AND PARTICULATE MATERIALS, 2001, pages 445 to 451, XP0001179265

D2: DATABASE COMPENDEX [Online] ENGINEERING INFORMATION, INC., NEW YORK, NY, US; ARAKIDA Y. ET AL.: "Powder injection molding as a metal forming process. Effects of powder morphology, size and size distribution" XP002269475 Database accession no. EIX92011131878

D3: EP-A-0 446 708 (BASF AF) 18 September 1991 (1991-09-18)

D4: Roy et al. "Metal Injection Moulding of Coarse Iron Powders" in PMI vol. 24, no. 2, 1992, pages 88 to 90

1. D4 concerns metal powder injection moulding compounds consisting of iron powder. Various powders have a d90 value within the claimed range (table 1, powders A and B). The binder composition and amount are also disclosed and fall within the claimed range (table II and figures 2 and 3). Therefore the

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subject matter of independent claims 1 and 5 and of dependent claims 2 and 3 is known from D4.

2. A binder as per claim 4 and its advantages are known, for example, from D3 (abstract and page 3, lines 11 to 14). Therefore the subject matter of claim 4 cannot be considered inventive.